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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Discipline and Ideas in the Social Sciences

Quarter 1 - Module 7: Major Social Sciences Theories and its Importance in Examining Socio-Cultural, Economic, and Political Conditions (Part 2)

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Discipline and Ideas in the Social Sciences – SHS Grade 11
Quarter 1 – Week 7:
Module 7 - Major Social Sciences Theories and its Importance in Examining Socio-Cultural, Economic, and Political (Part 2)

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Introduction

This module will help you better understand one of the three leading theoretical view in sociology today, the symbolic interactionism perspectives. For an overview of this theory, it explains how people are living in both the natural and the symbolic world. There is a process that stimulates reciprocal meaning and values through symbols in our mind. Meanings shall constitute mutual contact between individuals. Hence, even if the objects have no sense of their own, social factors will have an effect and these objects will have their meanings. So, let's proceed to deepen our knowledge on how symbolic interactionism impact our modern society.

Objectives

MOST ESSENTIAL LEARNING COMPETENCY:

Apply the major social science theories and its importance in examining socio-cultural, economic, and political conditions.

At the end of the module, you should be able to:

1. Explain the symbolic interactionism theory;
2. Identify effectively the importance of examining socio-cultural, economic, and political conditions; and
3. Apply the symbolic interactionism theory in examining the present social context by using socio-cultural, economic and political perspectives.

Since you already know our target for this module, are you ready to learn more? I hope that you will enjoy all the activities and reading materials that we have prepared for you. Good luck and happy learning to you.

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary List:

1. ***Symbolic Interactionism*** – concentrates on the use of symbols and direct interactions.
2. **Sociocultural** - The sociocultural perspective looks at you and your behaviors in the context of your culture and background.
3. **Economic** – is concerned with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. It is also about how individuals, businesses, governments, and nations make choices on allocating resources to satisfy their wants and needs.
4. **Political** – it is about power and the relationship between societies, states/government, and political conflict.

Pre-Test

DIRECTIONS: Choose the best answer to the following questions/statements below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is the core principle of symbolic interactionism?
   A. Action concentrated on the synthesis of social, economic, psychological, and cultural aspects of human actions
   B. Human life is in the symbolic realm
   C. Social Interaction
   D. None of the above
2. Human action and interaction are understandable only through the exchange of meaningful communication or symbols. What theoretical perspective is it?
   A. Structural functionalism C. Symbolic Interactionism
   B. Marxism D. None of the above3. Which perspective believes that the rational society is one built around logic and efficiency rather than morality or tradition?
   A. Structural functionalism C. Symbolic Interactionism
   B. Marxism D. None of the above
4. A symbolic interactionist may compare social interactions to:
   A. Human organs C. Conflicts
   B. Theatrical roles D. Behaviors

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5. The process of naming is important to understand symbolic interactionism because _____.

A. Words have a default notion that influences how we interpret the world.

B. Naming something does not have any impact on it.

C. We can only understand things when we label them.

D. Both A and C.

6. What is the main principle of symbolic interactionism?

A. Human beings act toward things based on the meanings that things have for them

B. These meanings arise out of social interaction

C. Social action results from a fitting together of individual lines of action

D. All of the above.

7. Which of the following is NOT a fundamental premise, according to Herbert Blumer?

A. Humans behave against objects based on the significance that objects have for them.

B. The significance of things originates from social interaction.

C. These definitions depend on and are changed by, the interpretive mechanism of people communicating with each other.

D. None of the above.

8. Within the culture, the essence of a thing exists in the action that it produces, which should have a/an _____.

A. Consensus on the meanings of different words or symbols.

B. Low consensus and the meaning is clear.

C. The high degree of consensual reaction between two individuals.

D. None of the above.

9. Which Reality is NOT considered as a social artifact?

A. Self

B. Gender

C. Culture

D. Society

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10. The truth in symbolic interactionism is created based on what factors?

A. Language and communication and symbols

B. Language, community, and culture

C. Self, gender, and culture

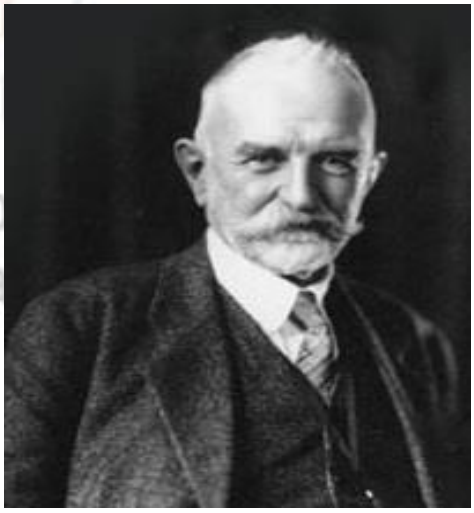
D. Self, culture, and society

LET'S CHECK THE RESULT

RATING	LEVEL
10-8	**EXCELLENT!** Congratulations! You can proceed to the next page and continue to learn the lesson.
7-5	**BETTER!** You can go back to those lessons that you've missed and continue.
4-3	**VERY GOOD!** You can improve your knowledge and continue to learn the next lesson.
2-0	**NEEDS IMPROVEMENT!** This module will help you to learn better with the new lesson. You can do it. Let's open the next page.

LESSON 3 - SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

Symbolic interactionism is a sociological perspective on self and society based on the ideas of George H. Mead (1934), Charles H. Cooley (1902), and W. I. Thomas (1931). The core principle of symbolic interactionism is that human life is in the symbolic realm. Symbols are historically oriented abstract objects with common signs that are produced and preserved in the form of social contact. By way of language and communication, symbols provide the way by which truth is created. Reality is essentially a social artifact, and all that is humanly consequential—self, mind, environment, culture— arises from, and relies on upon, abstract experiences for its life. Although the physical world is especially important to human activity because it is perceived by symbolic structures.



George Herbert Mead
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbolic_interactionism#/media/File:George_Herbert_Mead.jpg

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Importance of Meanings

Herbert Blumer (1969), one of Mead's students, coined the label of symbolic interactionism. Blumer, who did a great deal to form this view, stated his three fundamental premises: (1) that humans behave against objects based on the significance that objects have for them; (2) that the significance of things originates from social interaction; and (3) these definitions depend on and are changed by, the interpretive mechanism of people communicating with each other. The emphasis is on the sense that is described in terms of practice and its consequences (reflecting the influence of pragmatism). The essence of a thing exists in the action that it produces. For instance, the definition of "grass" is food for a cow, a shelter for a fox, and the like. In the case of symbols, meaning always depends on the degree of consensual reaction between two or more individuals. For example, the definition of the term husband depends on the consensual reactions of those who use it. If the majority of those who use it agree, the meaning of the symbol is clear; if the consensus is low, the meaning is ambiguous, and communication is problematic. Within a culture, there is a consensus on the meanings of different words or symbols. In practice, however, the meaning of things is highly variable. It depends on the process of interpreting and negotiating the interactions.

Herbert Blumer
https://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/jhamlin/4111/gifs/blumer.jpg

WEBER CONCEPT OF SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

Weber's main emphasis on the nature of society was on the elements of gender, rank, and power. Unlike Marx, Weber saw society as politically defined. Society, he claimed, was split between the owners and the staff. Status, on the other hand, was focused on non-economic factors such as employment, parenthood, and faith. Status and class dictated the strength of the individual or the control of ideas. Unlike Marx, Weber claimed that these theories formed the foundations of civilization.

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Weber's study of industrial life concentrated on the idea of rationalization. A logical culture is based on rationality and productivity rather than ideology or practice. Capitalism is entirely rational to Weber. While this contributes to productivity and merit-based performance, it may have adverse consequences when taken to excess. For certain industrial cultures, this is seen as a consequence of standardized procedures and stringent architecture, leading to a mechanized operating environment and an emphasis on delivering similar goods at all places (Retrieved July 5, 2020, from https://www.oercommons.org).

More than that, symbolic interactionism is a theoretical approach to understanding the relationship between people and society. The fundamental notion of symbolic

interactionism is that human behavior and expression can only be interpreted by the exchanging of concrete speech or representations. In this view, people are depicted as behaving, rather than thinking. The main principles of symbolic interactionism are:

- Human beings act toward things based on the meanings that things have for them
- These meanings arise out of social interaction
- Social action results from a fitting together of individual lines of action

The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective. Retrieved https://socialsci.libretexts.org/

DIRECTIONS: Your task is to explain the concept of symbolic interactionism by looking at the pictures below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

https://image.cnbcfm.com/api/v1/image/103998711-GettyImages-611921540.jpg?v=1529472884&w=1400&h=950

https://i.pinimg.com/564x/10/9f/5d/109f5d0515ae483376ee62df64e03a16.jpg

https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-Ave-C-LKDzE/T72RJjOdJCI/AAAAAAAAAOk/MVqZSLGcJi8/s1600/a.jpeg

1. How do you perceive them?

2. How do you label these people in society?

3. How would you expect each person to behave in the following situations?

a. In a lesson at school

_____

_____

b. Inside the church

_____

_____

c. In a party/gathering

_____

_____

d. In a shopping mall

_____

_____

Practice Task 2

DIRECTIONS: Your task is to identify the importance of **Symbolic Interactionism** in relation to socio-cultural, economic, and political perspectives. You may cite your personal life experiences or observation in your community. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

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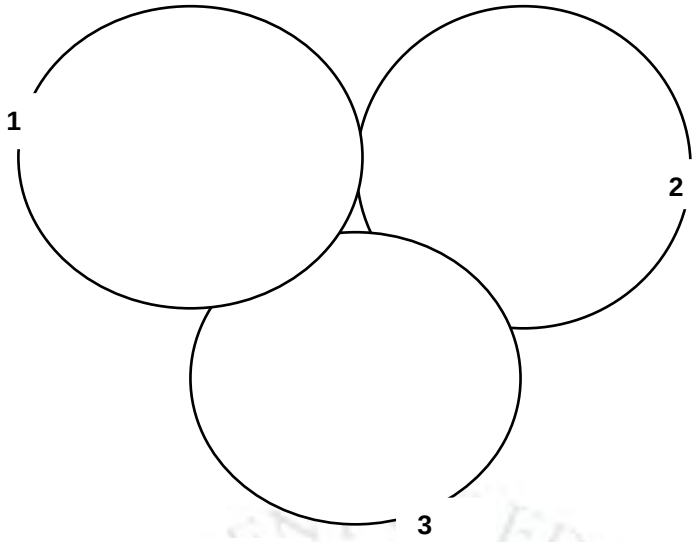
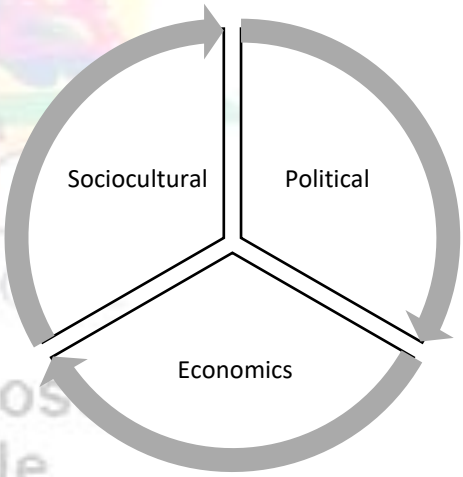
KEY TERMS:

1. **Sociocultural** - The sociocultural perspective looks at you and your behaviors in the context of your culture and background.
2. **Economic** – is concerned with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. It is also about how individuals, businesses, governments, and nations make choices on allocating resources to satisfy their wants and needs.
3. **Political** – it is about power and the relationship between societies, states/government, and political conflict.



Practice Task 3

DIRECTIONS: Your task is to apply the symbolic interactionism theory in examining how fake news proliferation can affect social interaction and what could be the possible impact on the socio-cultural, economic, and political aspects as a whole. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper



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RUBRICS

	Clarity	Accuracy	Conciseness
Excellent (5)	All concepts, principles, and reasons are presented.	Explanations of all concepts, principles, and reasons are very accurate	The very readable and very understandable language was employed. All words are simple
Very Good (4)	Almost all concepts, principles, and reasons (only 1 is missing) are presented.	Explanations of the concepts, principles, and reasons are accurately stated.	Very readable, understandable, and some words are not simple (3-4 words).

Good (3)	Only a sizable number of concepts, principles, and reasons are presented.	Explanations of the concepts, principles, and reasons are moderately accurate. Some do not have accurate explanations.	Readable and understandable words, but some words are not simple (5-6 words).
Fair (2)	Half of the insights, challenges, contradictions, and reasons are presented.	Explanations are vague. Others are not explained.	Readable and understandable words. 7-8 words are vague.
Poor (1)	Less than half of the insights, challenges, contradictions, and reasons are presented.	Concepts, principles, and reasons were not explained accurately.	Readable and understandable words. 9-above words are vague.

What I Have Learned?

There are many theories in sociology, but there are only three theoretical viewpoints that are prominent in the field. These theories are popular because they are reasonably good at describing social life. They are not without their problems, but these theories are commonly used and cited mainly because they have endured a great deal of criticism.

You might be inclined to ask, “Which theories are the best?” They are all the best because you need to understand that having different things doesn’t mean one is better than the other. In reality, it is generally more useful and insightful to see theories as complementary. Another theory may describe another aspect of society better than another or both of them may be useful to explain social life. Hence, all theoretical perspectives are right in the sense that they provide plausible explanations for social phenomena.

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Post-Test

DIRECTIONS. Choose the best answer to the following questions/statements below. Write the chosen letter on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Human life is in the symbolic realm. Which core principle is this?

A. Structural functionalism C. Symbolic Interactionism

B. Marxism D. Humanism2. Which of the following describes Social Interactionism?

A. Human action and interaction are understandable only through the exchange of meaningful communication or symbols

B. human beings have behaved primarily in reaction to the significance that events have for them, and these interpretations, in effect, originate from encounters with others.

C. Social, economic, psychological, and cultural aspects of human actions

D. None of the above

3. What perspective believes that the rational society is one built around logic and efficiency rather than morality or tradition?

A. Structural functionalism C. Symbolic Interactionism

B. Marxism D. All of the above

4. A symbolic interactionist may compare social interactions to:

A. Human organs C. Conflicts

B. Theatrical roles D. Behaviors

5. What is the reason why labeling is important to understand symbolic interactionism?

A. Naming something does not have any impact on it.

B. Words have a default notion that influences how we interpret the world.

C. We can only understand things when we label them.

D. Both A and C.

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6. Which is NOT the main principle of symbolic interactionism?

A. Human beings act toward things based on the meanings that things have for them

B. These meanings arise out of social interaction

C. Social behavior may vary depending on their status and power.

D. All of the above.

7. Which of the following statements is the TRUE fundamental premise of Herbert Blumer?

A. Humans behave against objects based on the significance that objects have for them

B. That the insignificance of things originate from the mind

C. These definitions come from our ancestors on what interpretive mechanism of people communicating with each other.

D. None of the above.

8. Within the culture, the essence of a thing exists in the action that it produces, which should have a/an _____.

A. General agreement on the connotations of different words or symbols.

B. A high level of consensus leads to a chaotic situation.

C. A high degree of consensual reaction between two individuals.

D. All of the above.

9. Which Reality is NOT considered as a social artifact?

A. Self B. Culture C. Gender D. Society

10. The truth in symbolic interactionism is created based on what factors?

A. Self, gender, and culture

B. Language and communication and symbols

C. Both A and B

D. None of the above.

LET'S CHECK THE RESULT

RATING	LEVEL
10-8	**EXCELLENT!** Congratulations! You can proceed to the next page and continue to learn the lesson.
7-5	**BETTER!** You can go back to those lessons that you've missed and continue.
4-3	**VERY GOOD!** You can improve your knowledge and continue to learn the next lesson.
2-0	**NEEDS IMPROVEMENT!** This module will help you to learn better with the new lesson. You can do it. Let's open the next page.

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Additional Activities

TASK 1 – MIND MAPPING

DIRECTIONS: Create a mind map on what are the ideas of Structural Functionalism and Karl Marx, what they believe in, and how do they impact society today?

RUBRICS FOR MIND MAPPING

	Clarity	**Illustration**	**Conciseness**
Excellent (5)	All concepts, principles, and reasons are presented.	The mind map includes at least relevant 8 illustrations. The illustrations make the mind map memorable.	The very readable and very understandable language was employed. All words are simple
Very Good (4)	Almost all concepts, principles, and reasons (only 1 is missing) are presented.	The mind map includes at least relevant 6 illustrations. The illustrations make the mind map memorable.	Very readable, understandable, and some words are not simple (3-4 words).
Good (3)	Only a sizable number of concepts, principles, and reasons are presented.	The mind map includes at least relevant 4 illustrations. The illustrations make the mind map memorable.	Readable and understandable words, but some words are not simple (5-6 words).
Fair (2)	Half of the insights, challenges, contradictions, and reasons are presented.	The mind map includes at least relevant 2 illustrations. The illustrations make the mind map memorable.	Readable and understandable words. 7-8 words are vague.
Poor (1)	Less than half of the insights, challenges, contradictions, and reasons are presented.	The mind map includes no relevant illustration or illustration that does not make the mind map memorable.	Readable and understandable words. 9-above words are vague.

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TASK 2

DIRECTIONS: Kindly read in advance on the basic concepts and principles of the major social science ideas through the links below.

Psychoanalysis:https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Psychology/Book%3A_Personality_Theory_in_a_Cultural_Context_(Kelland)/03%3A_Sigmund_Freud/3.07%3A_Psychoanalysis

Rational Choice: https://www.investopedia.com/terms/r/rational-choice-theory.asp

Institutionalism: https://www.britannica.com/topic/institutionalism

Answer Key

Pre-test	Post-test
1. A	1. C
2. C	2. B
3. C	3. C
4. B	4. B
5. D	5. D
6. D	6. C
7. D	7. A
8. A	8. A
9. B	9. C
10. A	10. B

Symbolic Interactionism

Practice 1
Practice 2
Practice 3
} Answers may vary

Sources

ARTICLES

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM
https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Sociology/Book%3A_Sociology_(Boundless)/01%3A_Sociology/1.03%3A_Theoretical_Perspectives_in_Sociology/1.3D%3A_The_Symbolic_Interactionist_Perspective
https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/11769/overview

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IMAGES

Herbert Blumer-
https://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/jhamlin/4111/gifs/blumer.jpg
George Herbert Mead
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbolic_interactionism#/media/File:George_Herbert_Mead.jpg

Rich People - https://image.cnbcfm.com/api/v1/image/103998711-GettyImages-611921540.jpg?v=1529472884&w=1400&h=950
Woman With Tatoo-
https://i.pinimg.com/564x/10/9f/5d/109f5d0515ae483376ee62df64e03a16.jpg
Poverty - https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-Ave-C LKDzE/T72RJjOdJCI/AAAAAAAAAOk/MVqZSLGcJi8/s1600/a.jpeg